AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the paragraph on page 9, line 15 as follows:

FIG. 2 shows an example of a predetermined pattern which includes three marks (at vertexes of a triangle shown) to be recognized/detected. The mask 11 which defines areas from the binary image 10 includes a foreground part (mark) 11b including pixels forming each mark, and a background part [[11b]] 11c including pixels acting as a background of the mark. A pattern 12 is formed by these three marks. In this example, as shown in the figure, the pattern is of the triangle, and the respective marks act as the vertexes of the triangle as mentioned above. As will now be described, the plurality of marks are given scores (resemblance with the ideal mark), and then, whether the pattern 12 formed by these marks on the target binary image examined is of the predetermined pattern to be recognized/detected is determined by the determination part 30.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 15, line 2 as follows:

(2) The following two-dimensional table 2, for example, is used for converting the relationship between the numbers of black pixels C(1) through C(9) in the respective first through ninth areas, based on such a relationship as that, as lacks (i.e., white) in the foreground part 11b are fewer, the target mark is more resemble to more resembles the predetermined circle, where Pc expresses the score indicating the continuity of the foreground part 11b.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 15, line 16 as follows:

(3) The score Psym represents symmetry, and, based on such a supposition that, as the symmetry in the foreground 11b is higher, the target mark ~~is more resemble to~~ more resembles the predetermined circle, the score Psym is obtained from the following two-dimensional table 3 as the relationship between the above-mentioned number Csym of black pixels and the number Cs of black pixels.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 16, line 5 as follows:

(4) The rotatioality is represented by Pac, and, by using the following two-dimensional tables 4, (A) and (B), supposing that, as the periodicity in the circumferential direction is smaller in the target mark, the target mark ~~is more resemble to~~ more resembles the predetermined circle, differences between the numbers C(1) through C(9) of black pixels in the respective first through ninth areas are converted into the score Pac. This determination is made in order to prevent halftone dots from being erroneously determined as the predetermined circle. For example, for examining the periodicity in 45 degrees and the periodicity in 90 degrees, the following formulas (4) and (5) are used. The formula (4) calculates differences in numbers of black pixels between areas having positional relationship of 45 degrees, and then, sums them. The thus-obtained sum is referred to as Ca45. Similarly, the formula (5) calculates differences in numbers of black pixels between areas having positional relationship of 90 degrees, and then, sums them. The thus-obtained sum is referred to as Ca90.

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